

trillion over the next decade. That is nearly \$1 trillion worse than what CBO forecast last fall.

After the estimates were released, Treasury Secretary John Snow commented from London that the administration remains committed to deficit reduction, stating, "Make no mistake; President Bush is serious about the deficit."

Mr. Speaker, who is Secretary Snow trying to fool? President Bush being serious about the deficit? This is the same President Bush who inherited a \$5.6 trillion surplus from President Clinton. Over the past 3 years, thanks mainly to three large tax breaks primarily benefiting America's millionaires, President Bush has presided over an \$8.5 trillion fiscal collapse.

And our Nation's fiscal situation could get even worse this year if Congress continues to listen to President Bush and the House Republican leadership. That is because CBO's estimates only take into account existing policies.

And just last week, during the State of the Union address, President Bush asked Congress to make all his fiscally irresponsible tax policies permanent. Last year CBO estimated that such action would cost the Federal Government an additional \$1 trillion.

The President also once again proposed partially privatizing Social Security at an additional expense of at least \$1 trillion in extra funds over the next decade, and that is \$2 trillion right there to add to the already gloomy deficit forecast. And this is not even including the \$700 billion the President wants to spend for a mission to Mars, the \$50 billion that the President will propose for the continuing war in Iraq, and the \$1.5 billion throwaway to the far right in his party to help train couples to develop better interpersonal skills that sustain "healthy marriages."

Based on these facts, how can Secretary Snow say that President Bush is serious about the deficit?

Let us be clear. It is the policies of President Bush and my Republican colleagues that have put us in this situation. Democrats do not control the White House. Democrats do not control the Congress, either the House or the Senate. And yet I would not be shocked if conservative Republicans do not come to the floor today and try to blame Democrats for the fiscal mess our Nation now faces.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, President Bush now sees the huge budget deficit as a threat to his reelection campaign, and that is why he vowed to cut the deficit in half over the next 5 years during his State of the Union address last week. But we might be asking ourselves how the President plans to cut the deficit in half with the more than \$2 trillion in tax cuts and other new spending he wants Congress to approve this year. The President and Republicans will say holding down domestic spending to 1 percent during the next year will put a

huge dent in the deficit, but that is simply not the case, considering that domestic spending only amounts to 17 percent of all the Federal spending expected this year.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker: The fiscal record of the Bush administration and congressional Republicans is clear. As long as Republicans control the Federal budget, our Nation's fiscal future is seriously in question; and in order to prevent a total fiscal collapse, it is time for President Bush and my Republican colleagues to face reality and repeal the President's tax cuts for the very wealthiest Americans.

It is time President Bush and congressional Republicans stand with our Nation's children, who will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of their fiscal irresponsibility. It is time the President and congressional Republicans stand with our Nation's seniors and baby boomers that need Social Security and Medicare strengthened and not raided.

Yesterday's CBO report should serve as a wake-up call to Washington Republicans. And let us hope they finally listen to the alarms before this mess gets even worse.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, shepherd Your people as never before, for the times are turbulent. Violence and terrorism rip apart the very fabric of civilization, ancient and new. Friendships between nations are threatened. And who will replace the basic trust and faithful love once found in family life?

As in the days of the prophet Zechariah, we call out to You to show forth Your power.

Take up Your two staves, one called Favor, the other Union.

With the staff of Favor, fashion us again as Your people. Renew Your covenant love within Your chosen ones.

With the staff of Union, bind all in this House to one another as leaders, worthy and willing to be brother and sister to others.

May You delight in us as Your very own and our coming together as a glimpse of Your kingdom, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SPECIAL-ED STUDENT VOTED HOMECOMING KING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, most homecoming kings are probably athletes or student government leaders, the "in crowd"; but students at a Tempe, Arizona, high school broke the mold. Marcos de Niza High School's landslide winner for homecoming king was a 21-year-old student with Down Syndrome, Poco Carton.

Poco is well-known around campus for his dance moves at lunch and for his insistence on saying hello to nearly everyone. The election is a vivid reminder that each and every life, regardless of what value the world places on it, is worthy of living. Every day, Poco and those who share his challenges offer priceless contributions to our communities, but too often they are taken for granted, excluded from the opportunities many of us take for granted.

Studies show that 86 percent of unborn children who are diagnosed with Down Syndrome are never given a chance to be elected homecoming king. They are aborted. Down Syndrome is a challenge that taxes anyone facing it. Families caring for children with this disease need our support and encouragement, but if we believe that the way to kill Down Syndrome is to kill babies, we are dead wrong.

How many Poco Cartons have we lost to this strategy? How many lives could have been touched at schools like Marcos de Niza? It is a cost too high to calculate.

HONORING THE REVEREND CHARLIE MURRAY

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday I had the opportunity to participate in a tremendous ceremony, the naming of a dining hall at the

church that I attend on a regular basis. We named it the Charlie H. Murray, the Reverend Charlie Murray, who is the pastor emeritus of this church; and as we thought of the contributions that this gentleman had made, we had brought practically every Senator, every mayor, Presidential candidates, all to this small church because of the tremendous outreach and appeal of the Reverend Charlie Murray.

So as we go into primary elections and people are voting and thinking about electing a new President, we thought that was an appropriate time to pay tribute to a church man who had been civically involved.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER BRIAN D. HAZELGROVE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is written that we are to grieve with those who grieve and mourn with those who mourn. It is in that spirit today that I rise to honor a hero, Chief Warrant Officer Brian Hazelgrove.

Warrant Officer Hazelgrove is the son of Ron and Patty Hazelgrove of Edinburgh, Indiana, a small town just a stone's throw from my home, where I am sure today in Sherman's Barber-shop and elsewhere there is genuine grief and sadness at the loss of this 1994 graduate of Edinburgh High School.

Warrant Officer Hazelgrove joined the Army in that year of 1994. He began his service in military intelligence before becoming a pilot and serving two tours of duty in South Korea.

He was serving with the 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry Regiment from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York. He died this January 23, 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom when his OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter went down 31 miles south of Mosul, Iraq. He was bravely executing a combat mission at the time.

Warrant Officer Hazelgrove, Mr. Speaker, died like every other American soldier throughout our Nation's history, bringing hope and freedom to a people who have never known it before.

On behalf of the people of the sixth congressional district, I extend my deepest sympathies and prayers to the family of Chief Warrant Officer Hazelgrove, to his lovely wife, Kimmi; their four children, Taylor, 11; Zachary, 10; Brandon, 3; and Katelyn, 7 months. Indiana and America mourn the loss of this heroic American, Chief Warrant Officer Brian Hazelgrove.

WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH DID NOT TELL US ABOUT THE MEDICARE BILL

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week President Bush stood in this

well and told us that he signed a Medicare bill last month. What he did not tell us was that this bill does not take effect until 2006. What he did not tell us is that this bill gives the insurance companies a \$14 billion taxpayer subsidy. What he did not tell us is that this bill provides \$139 billion more to the drug companies in profits, and what he did not tell us was how little coverage this Medicare prescription drug bill will give to most of America's seniors.

This bill falls short because the Medicare bill was written by the drug industry and by the insurance industry, for the drug industry and for the insurance industry in the Oval Office.

COLLABORATION ON THE AFTERMATH OF IRAQ

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe it is important at this time to restate a position that many of us took in this Nation in opposition to the attack against Iraq: preemptive, unilateral, and without a constitutional vote of this Congress.

We have long since said that we stand united behind the United States military, but it is clear that our policies now in the aftermath are failing, with the insurgents going against our troops in high numbers, with the loss of life increasing and now the political delay because those in Iraq want direct and prompt election. In addition, it is important not to cover up the wash out, the white out, the words of Mr. Kay, finding no weapons of mass destruction.

Today, I ask for a serious and collaborative effort with the United Nations who, of course, this government has approached, our NATO allies and Mideast allies to deal with the aftermath of Iraq.

Secondarily, I ask for a full and open hearing by all committees of jurisdiction on the issue of the lack of finding of weapons of mass destruction. I do that because that is the basis upon which representations were made to the United States and the people for which we entered into Iraq. It is imperative that these hearings are open and free for the public to hear, for the national security, to ensure the security of our homeland and the security of our troops and the security of all those around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

BREAST CANCER STAMP EXTENSION

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1385) to extend the provision of title 39, United States Code, under which the United States Postal Service is authorized to issue a special postage stamp to benefit breast cancer research, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1385

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. BREAST CANCER STAMP EXTENSION.

Section 414(h) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking "2005" and inserting "2006".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1385, introduced by my distinguished colleague from my home State of California (Mr. BACA), extends the life of the breast cancer research semipostal stamp.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of July 22, 1997, Dr. Ernie Bodai, Betsy Mullen, and David Goodman sat breathlessly in the House gallery awaiting the outcome of a vote that they had worked tirelessly to see become a reality. At that time, H.R. 1585, the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act, was landmark legislation establishing the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program and directing the U.S. Postal Service to issue a new first-class breast cancer stamp with proceeds benefiting breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Programs.

This advocacy team, a surgeon, a survivor and a widower, used their own time and resources to convince lawmakers to pass this essential legislation.

Dr. Ernie Bodai of Carmichael, California, a constituent and personal friend of mine, led the charge. After 14 visits to Washington within 2 years, as well as spending over \$100,000 of his personal savings, he succeeded, creating the lead for breast cancer fundraising. Dr. Bodai is the pioneer of the breast cancer stamp, chief of general surgery for Kaiser Permanente, and CEO of CureBreastCancer, Inc.